

food not served in the company cafeteria. That provides 30 percent of the food the mission needs, he said.

Sixteen Kentucky Fried Chicken outlets give the chicken that was partially fried but not sold. ConAgra and Campbell's pass on extra or unneeded edibles. When Roberts Dairy trucks return from deliveries, their unsold dairy products are loaded directly into mission vans.

Food donations in Omaha are made easier by a far-sighted "Good Samaritan" law passed by the Nebraska Legislature in 1981 protecting anyone donating food from civil lawsuits.

The fact that the idea is working so well in Omaha is a credit to the city, a credit to charities that handle the food and a credit to good-hearted people.

EXPECTING NOTHING IN RETURN

HON. JAMES A. BARCIA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 10, 1997

Mr. BARCIA. Mr. Speaker, very rarely do you meet a person who is willing to sacrifice so much of himself for one cause. I am rising today to pay tribute to one of my constituents, Robert Elkowitz of Bay City, MI, who has selflessly given 30 years of service to his community, State, and Nation. Bob is retiring as commander of American Legion Post 18 after many years of dedicated service.

Bob began his journey by joining the Army as a medic during the Vietnam war. His medical unit not only cared for his fellow American soldiers, but also provided general health care and inoculations to Vietnamese children. He returned from Vietnam older and wiser with a firm commitment to his country. He credits his tour in Vietnam with creating the wholehearted and giving man he is today.

Mr. Elkowitz's dedication to others did not end once his feet touched American soil. After his discharge from the Army he joined the U.S. Naval Reserve as a medical corpsman for nearly 3 years. He then served in the Michigan Army National Guard, and became the unofficial director of social affairs. Bob organized parties and picnics for the entire unit to create a family within a family. Bob helped his fellow soldiers see that the entire unit could only function when they could rely on each other. By creating this family atmosphere, the unit did not just function, it thrived.

Bob is extremely proud of his service in the military and the National Guard. In fact, Mr. Elkowitz would not retire until his entire battalion was retired. He did not want his life's mission to end after his completion of service from the National Guard in August 1993. Bob joined American Legion Post 18 in June 1994, and was selected to serve as the commander. During his time in the American Legion, Bob dedicated himself to helping the Veterans in Need Program and organizing numerous functions to create the same family atmosphere he had in his battalion.

Vision is nothing without being a man of action, and Bob has that type of dedication to pursue his desires. Bob wanted to have the American Legion known throughout the community, and he fulfilled that desire. From the Bay River Band Concerts to the Bay City Independence Day Celebration Weekend you will see members of the American Legion. Bob

and his successor are continuing to fulfill the dream to make the American Legion a vital local institution and community asset.

Bob is now at a crossroads in his life. After serving 3 consecutive years as the American Legion post commander, a post record, he now has more time to enjoy his family. He looks forward to ending his mission at a place which truly holds his heart, Bay City, and with people who mean everything to him, especially his grandchildren. I am sure that he will pass the same honor, integrity, courage, and zest for life he possesses on to future generations of the Elkowitz clan.

Mr. Speaker, if we want citizens who are absolutely driven by the concept of community and family, then we must continue to praise individuals like Robert Allen Elkowitz. I ask you and all of our colleagues to join me in wishing Bob Elkowitz the best of luck in all his future endeavors.

CONGRATULATIONS ON THE 225TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE TOWN OF NORTHBRIDGE

HON. JAMES P. MCGOVERN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 10, 1997

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to warmly congratulate the town of Northbridge, MA, as it celebrates its 225th anniversary.

Northbridge, a present day community of approximately 13,000 residents in the heart of the Blackstone River Valley National Heritage Corridor, was incorporated as a town on July 14, 1772. Comprised of the five villages of Whitinsville, Rockdale, Riverdale, Linwood, and Northbridge Centre, this great municipality has a rich history characterized by its pioneering leadership in the development of the traditional New England manufacturing industry. At the inception of the Industrial Revolution, capitalizing on its fertile geographic competitive advantage to develop burgeoning industries, cotton, brick, and textile mills emerged in Northbridge steadily replacing older saw and grist mills, and still remain today as vital economic assets. In particular, the Whittin Machine Works, built in 1847, long served as the industrial center of the Northbridge economy, employing hundreds of members of the community through the 1950's.

In addition, Northbridge is widely noted for its striking aesthetic beauty and ebullient civic pride. Its citizens have had a strong, storied commitment of service to both community and country. Residents of Northbridge have served in all military wars and conflicts dating back to the American Revolution. In particular, Rosaire "Ross" Rajotte' dual service is illustrative of the unwavering Northbridge commitment to the larger community of which it is a part. Remarkably, Ross Rajotte earned four Purple Hearts during World War II. He then returned home after the war to become a leader in municipal affairs, serving three times on the Board of Selectman, and as its chairman once, as well as helping establish both Northbridge's Conservation Commission and the Planning and Zoning Board of Appeals.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride and admiration that I commend Northbridge for its outstanding, prosperous, and distinctive civic

character. I wish future generations of community members the very best in maintaining Northbridge's glowing testament of progress and citizenship.

WELCOME TO THE FORUM ACOREANO

HON. BARNEY FRANK

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 10, 1997

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, earlier this year I had a very useful and enjoyable meeting with an organization newly formed in Southeastern Massachusetts. The meeting took place in Fall River, and the group is the Forum Acoreano U.S.A. The Forum is composed of people who are concerned about issues that are of particular relevance to Azorean Americans, of which I am proud to say there are more in Southeastern Massachusetts than in any other part of the country. The officers of the organization—President Alfredo Alves, Vice President Maria Pinheiro, Secretary Manuel Estrella and Treasurer Arthur Tavares—and their colleagues are thoughtful well informed people who understand both the greatness of America, and the valuable contributions immigration makes to that. I look forward to working with this important organization in achieving the combination of economic growth and social justice which has been the hallmark of Americans at our best, and I ask that the very thoughtful letter that the Forum has addressed to myself and all of my colleagues be printed here. It is particularly relevant that this be printed at this time while conferees are deciding exactly what should be done to correct the serious errors Congress made last year in adopting legislation which so unfairly affected our immigrant population, and their families and friends.

FORUM ACOREANO U.S.A.,

Fall River, MA, June 24, 1997.

TO THE HONORABLE MEMBERS OF CONGRESS: We are a newly created organization formed to promote and give political voice to the concerns and interests of persons in the United States of Acorean origin. All of our members are immigrants of many years duration in the United States and we are saddened and deeply disturbed by legislation passed by Congress this past year which drastically alters the Immigration and Naturalization Act and which curtails disability and other benefits available to legal permanent residents of the United States.

Never before have we witnessed a Congress of the United States take such drastic measures as those passed into law in 1996. Never before have we witnessed the passage of legislation so purposefully aimed to undermine the most vulnerable and defenseless in our country: the aged, the afflicted, the infirmed, the physically disabled, the mentally incompetent, the dependent child, the disabled child, as well as the immigrant among us who has no power to vote.

We urge you to:

Return full disability and other benefits to disabled legal permanent residents;

Ensure that student exchange visitor programs can continue to run without mandated agency reimbursement;

Ensure special consideration regarding the English language requirement with respect with persons over the age of 65 who are applying for citizenship;

Preserve humanitarian relief from deportation for long-term permanent residents and others who have extensive family and community ties in the United States;

Hold public meetings to better know the needs and concerns of your constituents, prior to passage of legislation.

Please consider and remember during your legislative deliberations that when a long-term permanent resident is deported, we have personally witnessed the following:

United States citizen children who are minors have been compelled to accompany a deported parent in order to maintain the family unit;

A United States citizen child never has the same opportunities for education and economic well being in his or her parent's home land as he or she would have in the U.S.

Families have been irreparably broken up; Youngsters have lost parents and great emotional harm has resulted;

Aged parents have lost the solace and company of a son or daughter who is deported and have no hope of seeing that child again;

Families have lost their major breadwinner and have been forced to turn to public benefits for relief;

We can not imagine why Congress would single out these vulnerable groups among us and tamper with their well being and their family unity. We wonder if the members of Congress spoke with their constituents before passage of such far reaching legislation. We wonder if you remembered that we are a nation of immigrants and that it is our diversity which has made us strong?

If you doubt the contribution of immigrants to this country, we invite you to visit our communities in Massachusetts and Rhode Island. There you will see how we have transformed run-down urban neighborhoods in Fall River, New Bedford, Cambridge, Somerville, Peabody, and Taunton, as well as Providence, East Providence, Bristol, Tiverton, West Warwick into clean, safe, updated, family neighborhoods.

Even though some of us speak with an accent, and have names that may be hard to spell or pronounce, we are nonetheless, voters and tax payers, and we own businesses and property, we are also educators, public officials and public servants, as well as doctors and lawyers and, if you visit the factories in our communities you will see that we are the backbone of the work force. We are also the mothers, fathers, children, brothers, sisters, uncles, aunts and cousins of legal permanent residents who have been hurt by the recent legislation and as such, the laws have hurt us as well.

We urge you ladies and gentleman of Congress to remember the plight of the immigrant during the deliberations of the 105th Congress and to ameliorate the present legislation.

Respectfully submitted, Forum Acoreano—U.S.A. Board of Directors.

ALFREDO ALVES,
President.
MANUEL ESTRELLA,
Secretary.
MARIA PINHEIRO,
Vice President.
ARTHUR TAVARES,
Treasurer.

HONORING AMBASSADOR
LILJEGREN OF SWEDEN

HON. EARL F. HILLIARD

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 10, 1997

Mr. HILLIARD. Mr. Speaker, I come before this body today to both bid good bye and to

give special recognition to the accomplishments of Sweden's Ambassador to the United States, the Honorable Henrik Liljegen. He has proven himself to be a skillful and resourceful diplomat.

My colleagues will remember that Ambassador Liljegen arrived in the United States over 4½ years ago. Among his many accomplishments was his active involvement in 1993 of removing Soviet troops from the Baltic States of Europe. Many of you will also recall his work with the Clinton administration to help these Baltic States integrate into the West. He was successful in both of these endeavors. These efforts helped the United States and Sweden seize a narrow window of opportunity to enhance the national interests of both nations. Through his efforts in the Baltic States, working in coordination with the United States, Ambassador Liljegen helped President Clinton achieve one of his first foreign policy successes.

While Washington's official diplomatic community will truly miss Ambassador Liljegen, Washington society will also miss his charming wife, Nil. She is one of those rare flowers who is truly beautiful and intelligent.

As they both depart for the Ambassador's next assignment in Turkey, I would like to extend to him the very best wishes of the United States House of Representatives.

SOCIAL SECURITY FOR CURRENT AND FUTURE GENERATIONS

HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 10, 1997

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, along with the vast majority of Americans, I strongly support the Social Security program and believe that we have a responsibility to make it financially secure for generations to come.

When I am in my congressional district, I see this highly successful program at work. More than 63,000 residents of my district receive a Social Security benefit every month. Social Security provides a guaranteed benefit to 99 percent of retirees in the United States. Social Security provides a secure base for senior citizens and allows their children to concentrate more financial resources on their own families.

However, we all realize that Social Security has a financing problem that we must address. The sooner we resolve it, the less drastic the solutions and the greater the lead time for people to adjust for their own retirement. I do want to point out, however, that we have time to discuss and decide on wise and prudent adjustments. In 1983, the Social Security trust fund would have been insolvent in 2 months if Congress had not acted. Today, we have 30 years to avoid a similar situation.

Radically altering the system is not warranted—the projected shortfall in the trust fund can be fixed with relatively minor changes to the system. Privatization and gambling with retirement income is not the answer. The Social Security Administration has been aware of the problem posed by the retirement of the baby boom generation for decades. Social Security has faced challenges in the past and can face this challenge of the future without dismantling the entire system.

As we search for solutions to Social Security's long-term problems, we should think about the features of the program that work. Foremost among them is the availability of benefits to all workers who earned them, regardless of income. Therefore, I agree with the Social Security Advisory Council that we should reject means testing. Tying benefits to need sends the wrong message to workers and beneficiaries—a signal that if they save for retirement, their Social Security, to which they are currently contributing, could be reduced or lost.

In addition, the program's progressive benefit formula already differentiates between those who are more highly compensated and those who are not. Lower wage workers currently receive a greater return on their payroll taxes than average and high earners. This practice works, but additional tilting away from those who earn more could punish productivity and create the impression that Social Security is somehow a welfare program. Nothing could be further from the truth.

On the other hand, privatization would tilt the Social Security program far away from lower wage workers, by introducing a huge element of uncertainty into the economy and into a retirees' monthly income. Therefore, we must reject this change. Social Security currently is the secure portion of a retirement portfolio. An individual's savings and investments now are the risk-taking segment. Privatizing makes Social Security and an individual's retirement income subject to the whims of the stock market and the skills, or lack thereof, of a person's financial advisor. In short, gambling with our seniors' future livelihoods is unacceptable.

With privatization, we would be placing all of our retirement eggs in one unstable basket—risking scrambling all of our retirement plans.

Proponents of privatization suggest that it will promote national savings, but shifting payroll taxes from the Social Security trust funds into individual accounts does not increase the national savings by one penny.

Misinformation regarding Social Security has been spread by powerful groups determined to turn the entire fate of America's retirees over to Wall Street. In contrast, making reasonable modifications to restore Social Security's long-term imbalance is a more sound and prudent course.

Let me repeat—we have time to fix the problems. Social Security has stood the test of time and has proven to be a fair and successful program. We do not need to rush into unknown waters with privatization and other radical proposals. Our seniors and future seniors deserve to have this body take a moderate and deliberative approach to altering a program that has served so many so well.

NATIONAL GUARD HONORED

HON. JIM DAVIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 10, 1997

Mr. DAVIS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, the brave men and women of the National Guard were honored at the world premier of Charles Gabriele's "National Guardian's March" presented in Venice, FL, on May 19, 1997 at a concert of the Venice Concert Band directed